

At that time, we in the Congress recognized the unique contribution of Little League Baseball to our Nation's young people. Little League involvement has long provided a valuable outlet for healthy activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation for generations of Americans. It teaches not just the rudiments of the game but the basics of teamwork and fair play that children need to become good and decent citizens.

The original law set out the objective and purpose of Little League Baseball. It was "to promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways the interest of boys who will participate in Little League baseball."

Today, Little League Baseball Incorporated is active in promoting and supervising youth—both boys and girls—worldwide in participating in Little League. It has chartered more than 18,000 baseball or softball leagues in 85 countries, across six continents.

Little League Baseball is planning a new facility—the Little League Baseball European Leadership Training Center—which will provide a home for clinics and training programs and will serve as the site for the European Little League Baseball playoffs. It is to be located in Kutno, Poland.

The Center will be a 35-acre complex to host baseball sports clinics, adult volunteer training programs as well as youth development programs.

Unfortunately, although the Polish Little League Baseball Foundation established to direct the construction of the facilities and playing fields in Kutno is a nonprofit organization, they are being denied an exemption from the Polish Value-Added Tax.

Since the Polish Finance Ministry does not classify Little League Baseball as an international organization, the VAT will be applied to the approximately \$4 million for the project.

The application of the VAT could cost this charitable organization up to \$880,000.

Let's clarify for the world to know—Little League Baseball Incorporated is a worldwide, international organization. It should be accorded all of the benefits and privileges available to nongovernmental international organizations.

I'd ask all my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution to say to the Polish Finance Ministry—Let's play ball!

#### TRIBUTE TO MILDRED JONES

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district who recently left us.

For more than 40 years, Mildred Jones served her community and nation. She represented the World YWCA at the United Nations for 15 years, worked for UNICEF, chaired the Mission Commission in the 1990s, and helped organize several international conferences on women—including the 1995 Beijing Conference. Closer to home, she served her community at the White Plains

Presbyterian Church, soliciting support for programs that provide food and shelter to the homeless and housing for senior citizens.

Mildred Jones touched the lives of people all over the world. She will be sorely missed. Mr. Speaker, in her honor, I wish to have portions of her 1997 United Presbyterian Church "Woman of the Year" nomination included in the RECORD for all to read. May she inspire each and every one of us.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA 1997

Mrs. Jones represented the World YWCA at the United Nations from 1971 until 1996. As a representative of a non-governmental organization at the UN, she chaired the NGO committee for UNICEF. During the International Year of the Child in 1979, she worked professionally in the UNICEF office and was the U.S. representative and side to Canon Moerman, head of the UN's International Year of the Child.

In her work with UNICEF, Mrs. Jones was instrumental in aggressively promoting a boycott of the Nestle Company to combat the marketing of baby formula milk to mothers in African countries. (Formula milk requires the addition of water, and the water in many African communities was typhoid-ridden. UNICEF presented alternative educational programs for breast feeding.)

As a church elder and chair of the Mission Commission in the 1990's, Mrs. Jones was an important spearhead in developing a Mentoring Program involving church members who work with the children of homeless families living in temporary housing.

Throughout her more than 40 years of service to the YMCA, UN and UNICEF (as well as her concurrent service in the White Plains Presbyterian Church), Mrs. Jones has worked creatively and effectively for the well-being of children. She helped organize international causes to reduce high child-mortality rates by means of methods such as breast-feeding, immunization, oral rehydration therapy, and growth monitoring. Helping to empower the powerless does not happen without critics. During the planning for the International Year of the Child, Mrs. Jones received an angry letter from an executive in a prominent woman's organization demanding that the U.S. withdraw support for the IYC because it was a "Communist Conspiracy". Mrs. Jones firmly rejected that idea, pointing out that, in fact, the Soviet Union had refused to participate in the IYC, stating that their children were well cared for and didn't need help.

In her mission work with the White Plains Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Jones was active in gaining support for several outreach programs: SWAP (a program to renovate old buildings in inner-city Yonkers); Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry; Kingsley House (a senior citizens' apartment house jointly funded by the White Plains church and New York State); and SHORE (Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility, a community-wide program).

Mildred Jones served on the Board of Directors of the National YWCA, 1955-1970, and was vice-president of the Board, 1967-1970. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the World YWCA, 1967-1975, and VP of the World YWCA, 1971-1975. As part of her UN and UNICEF work, Mrs. Jones helped organize three world conferences about and for women (Mexico, Copenhagen and Beijing.) She was a model for women in her church work, also: one of the first women to be ordained an elder in White Plains, Clerk of Session for eight years, a member of Session, off on an, for nearly 25 years.

HONORING SMITHVILLE FIDDLERS' JAMBOREE AS AN OUTSTANDING NATIONAL JAMBOREE AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 1997*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival and The National Championship for Country Musician Beginners which are a great source of civic and cultural pride in Smithville, Tennessee.

As a matter of fact, it was recently named the Official Jamboree and Crafts Festival of the State of Tennessee. Since the Festival's inception in 1972, attendance has grown from 16 States represented and 8,000 people present to 44 States and four foreign countries represented with over 110,000 people attending in 1996.

The Smithville Jamboree has set high standards of excellence for music, crafts, hospitality and fellowship. The Jamboree has been televised each year and broadcast worldwide, and has even had the distinction of being featured in the National Geographic Traveler and Southern Living. An example of how popular the Annual Jamboree has become worldwide, was its recent listing in the International Datebook of the New York Times on Sunday, June 8.

The Jamboree and Festival, which is held annually over the Fourth of July holiday, has been named one of the top 100 tourist events in North America, according to a list compiled by the American Bus Association. Additionally, the Jamboree has been selected as a "Top 20 Tourist Favorite" by the Southeast Tourism Society, which includes the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Virginia.

I congratulate the founders of this event, the staff, and volunteers who have kept and continue to keep this piece of American tradition alive. I further recognize the local community organizations who have worked so diligently to make this event a success year after year. They include: Smithville/DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Merchants Association, Smithville Volunteer Fire Department and local individuals who begin planning in early January. They work all the way up until a new Champion Fiddler of the Upper Cumberland and the National Championships for Country Music Beginners are announced.

As always, the 1997 Jamboree and Crafts Festival stands to be recognized as the best ever. On behalf of all those who dedicate their hard work and effort to making this event possible, I encourage all who might be traveling through the great State of Tennessee to stop off, kick back and enjoy this time honored tradition of old-time Appalachian country music, dance, and authentic Appalachian art and culture.